

EXHIBIT 14

Letter to the members and those present at the Meeting on April 14th of the Prison Commission.
Concerning: Incarcerated people in Nevada not receiving (adequate) medical care.

March 30th, 2009

Dear Commission members and people present,

My name is Annabelle Parker, I live in The Netherlands, and I am a friend of an inmate in Nevada, Marritte Funches (#37050, Ely State Prison). Mr Funches has serious health problems (chronic disuria, an enlarged prostate, severe kidney pain), and he has been having some these health problems since 2004 or earlier, left untreated they developed into severe kidney pains and possible cancer. In Dr Noel's report for the ACLU, Mr Funches is mentioned on page 18, with these symptoms and these dated from 2004 already.

Mr Funches is being kept on "High Risk Potential" in Ely State Prison, being locked up 23 to 24 hours a day. He receives no diagnosis for his ailments, and no treatment. This HRP-status is not justified by any logic or backed up by any facts. Mr Funches has as little points as needed to qualify for Medium level security. Therefore, the HRP-status he is under is illegal and is used to make him suffer more. Cruel and unusual punishment is what I as a European and world citizen would call this. I am sure that the medical care Mr Funches needs, was, when treated when it started, not very expensive or even life threatening. But since nothing has been done to adequately diagnose what he is suffering from and what he needs to cure this, his ailments have become severe, with excruciating pains and potential kidney failure in view. And this, in 2009, in a time when we have so much medical care to treat the disease that Mr Funches is suffering from.

Due to Mr Funches' HRP status, doctors are not allowed to order certain tests, and currently he is not being seen by any outside doctors or specialists. There is only a nurse who sometimes gives a painkiller. Without the approval of the warden of ESP, who has continuously denied doctor recommendations, either directly or by simply refusing to remove Mr Funches from HRP, there is no end in sight of the suffering of Mr Funches.

Only upon an investigation of the medical care at ESP, was Mr Funches, along with a few other inmates, sent to High Desert State Prison some time ago, to be medically evaluated and treated. But his HRP status, and specific notes written into his file by warden E.K. McDaniel hindered access to medical care. On numerous occasions Mr Funches' medical appointments were cancelled simply due to his HRP status. Recommendations from Dr Henff for Mr Funches to be seen by an outside specialist were denied, now by warden Dwight Neven, under the direction of E.K. McDaniel.

From January 17th to October 2nd 2008, Mr Funches was forced to languish and continue suffering from excruciating pain, as his symptoms got worse and worse. Warden Neven had the power to override E.K. McDaniel's classification, so did Director of Prisons Howard Skolnik. Both whom Mr Funches appealed to in this regard, on several occasions. At one point, in June 2008, Dwight Neven was going to remove him from HRP, after numerous prison staff at HDSP, and assistant warden of programs Jim Henson, spoke up on his behalf, which would have allowed him to receive medical care, and to program. But again, under E.K. McDaniel's urging, Mr Neven decided not to take Mr Funches off HRP. And so for another 9 ½ months he was forced to languish in pain and misery. Numerous pleas to all of those above mentioned went ignored.

Finally after calls and emails from friends and family on the outside, demanding answers, Mr Funches was transferred to Carson City on October 2nd 2008, to be diagnosed and treated by a specialist. But due to his HRP status, rather than being housed at the Regional Medical Facility at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center, as would normally take place, because this is where the specialist was at, he was housed at the Nevada State Prison nearby. At NSP there was even more harassment. He was even given the psychotropic Elavil, even though it is known that this psychotropic makes disease of urinary way and prostate worse. And in his situation, the last thing he needed was a psychotropic. Mr

Funches was taken back to ESP in January of this year, still suffering excruciating pain from a potentially life-threatening illness if left untreated. And although Mr Funches meets all the requirements of a medium security prison, warden E.K. McDaniel refuses to take him off HRP. And with no legitimate explanation whatsoever.

I read the Noel report, and the order of the judge not to dismiss the case of the family of Mr Patrick Cavanaugh, who was denied insulin as an insulin-dependent diabetic patient (and who died from the results of this). I know, that as long as this warden at ESP is in charge of prisoners, of human lives, there will be people held in his prison, under his charge, dying of treatable diseases and chronic diseases by denying them their vital medication. And this is the same for the wardens and nurses, doctors (or so-called doctors) who also do not act upon the facts when an ill inmate is housed in their prisons. As the judge in the recent order of the case of Mr Cavanaugh stated: "...as a matter of common sense, prisoners, as human beings, have the same bodies and suffer from the same medical conditions as the general population."

Now ladies and gentlemen of the Commission, and people present, this is what I read on the Nevada DOC website (<http://www.doc.nv.gov/medical/index.php>, accessed March 29th, 2009):

The mission of the Medical Division of the Nevada Department of Corrections is:

To provide quality, constitutionally mandated health care, using an efficient system of managed care, that is professional, humane and appropriate, and in support of the mission of the Nevada Department of Corrections.

How, I ask you, is it humane to keep someone suffering in severe pains, and not diagnose him and treat his disease? Is it appropriate? I think not. Does it support the mission of the NDOC? See: <http://www.doc.nv.gov/about/mission.php?idnum=0> (accessed March 29th, 2009):

Protect the public by confining convicted felons according to the law, while keeping staff and inmates safe.

So how is an ill inmate being kept safe from medical abuse and misuse of medicaments, and absence of any diagnosis?

Let's see the Vision of NDOC:

A Nevada with no more victims.

So, no more victims, but what about the victims NDOC itself makes? Or, those who work for NDOC?

What about the Philosophy of NDOC?

We will pursue our mission with integrity, act in a professional and ethical manner, be responsible for our actions, and raise the department to the highest standards.

So, if NDOC is responsible for their actions, why do those in charge let sick inmates die, or left to suffer? How can we, the public, keep them to their responsibilities? Clearly the highest standards have by far not yet been reached. Integrity? Professional? Ethical? This is the opposite of what I see is happening in Nevada's prisons.

I myself wrote letters to the Office of the Inspector General on January 23rd 2009, for Mr Funches and also a letter for Mr R. Egberto (#20632), which I will add hereby. I only received a reply from the Office about my letter for Mr Egberto, which made me not convinced that they would pursue the issues with the vision and philosophy of NDOC in their hearts. When people who support Mr Funches call the warden, or his secretary, or Dr Bannister, they always get the same reply, that there is nothing wrong with him (implying our friend is lying to his friends!) or that he gets adequate care (Tylenol against the pain, but the pain does not go away, and the symptoms surely will not go away!).

The wardens and head of prisons may be proud of their budget in cutting costs for medical care, but the costs of medical care will definitely go up when the NDOC keeps treating those who are ill this way. It is inhumane, it costs human lives, it is unprofessional, unethical, and does not keep the inmates safe. It also costs money. This way of dealing with people has to change. Is it not a shame to be seen by society as inadequate and unprofessional? Or do the wardens and head of prisons know no shame?

Hoping that this Prison Commission has the courage to change the things mentioned above for the better of all, and requesting an independent overview of the prison system in Nevada, so that these missteps in medical care do not happen again, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Annabelle Parker,

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Literature:

ACLU Class Action Complaint (2008):

<http://docs.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/nevada/nvdce/3:2008cv00115/58830/1/0.pdf>
(viewed on 29th March 2009)

Dr Noel Report: <http://www.aclu.org/pdfs/prison/reportbymedicalexpertonelystateprison.pdf> (viewed on 29th March 2009)

Order by the Judge in the civil lawsuit of Patrick Cavanaugh's administratrix et al.:
http://nvpv.us/Cavanaugh_Order_2009-03-24.pdf (viewed on 29th March 2009)

Inmates of Ely State Prison address the Nevada Board of State Prison Commissioners

Esteemed board members, Mrs Masto, Mr Gibbons, Mr Miller.

My name is Marritte Funches. I make this statement to you in severe pain, and possibly from my own death bed. After years of suffering needlessly, from kidney and prostate problems. All the while enduring a long list of harassments. But all I've experienced and observed over the past 19 years here, compels me to speak on behalf of everyone.

Immediately upon his arrival, E.K. McDaniel began implementing his lockdown-supermax ideology. Closing the school building, shutting down the gym, locking down all but one of the general population units, and cutting most every positive program we had, the few remaining nothing more than a single workbook. Which only call for you to answer a few questions alone in your cell to complete and receive a certificate. ESP was not constructed to be a Supermax prison, or even a Lockdown prison. In order to implement this ideology, warden McDaniel has had to manipulate conflicts and create policies which violate our human/civil rights on a daily basis. Because it is impossible under these lockdown conditions.

For us all to receive the federally mandated five (5) hours of fresh air and sunshine per week, warden McDaniel has instituted an entire system of humiliations and punishments, which serve no other purpose than to dehumanize and discourage us from going outside. To which going outside, fresh air, sunshine, and exercise, has been recognized by every court in the land. To be vitally important, to the good mental and (p. 2) physical health of a person. That we go outside alone with no other inmates, and the enclosure is searched between each exercise period, we are forced to endure the humiliation of no less than three (3) naked strip searches, two of which include anal cavity checks. In the cold weather months, when temperatures reach below freezing, we're not allowed to wear gloves or any other extra clothing. And there's no inside area for us to exercise. We're often forced to choose between going outside late at night, 1 or 2 A.M., or not at all. And while outside, our cells are subject to be trashed for no reason.

We're only allowed two (2) showers per week, two weeks a month, and three (3) per week the other two. Then just going to the shower is made to be as humiliating as possible. Forced to get down on our knees, and to crawl backwards out the door while handcuffed, where leg irons are then applied. Once in the tiny shower stall, we're forced to get down on our knees again. This time in whatever puddles of filth left from all the men who showered before you that day. Some of them mentally ill, or vindictive. So they have no restraint, or they intentionally urinate, etc. for who ever after them to kneel in. Some of these men have HIV/AIDS. Tuberculosis, Hepatitis, and Staph infections are common. Suffice it to say, many of us refuse this humiliation, and simply do not shower. But then we are not allowed to receive soap in our cell. Soap is only given during showers, at which time we're allowed to bring a single small piece of soap (1 1/2 x 1 inch) back to our cell. Enough to wash your hands once or twice. This is all again intentionally designed to keep us from wanting our (p. 3) five (5) hours of fresh air and sunshine each week.

Early on in the McDaniel regime, in order to justify locking down the prison, he created hostile environments intentionally to cause violent conflicts, removing the convicts he knew could keep the peace. And then mixing various gang members, known informants, paedophiles, mentally ill inmates, etc. A sure recipe for conflict that any person with common sense could see.

It is common now to see known enemies being forced to live in the same cell together. When cellmates can't get along, requests for a cell change are often denied. Men who should not be living in a cell with anyone, are threatened with harsh punishments if they don't. Warden McDaniel has instituted a policy among the inmates that punishes those who refuse to inform on each other, or to participate in their own humiliation. And he rewards so called snitching, which is really just a tactic used by less scrupulous inmates to manipulate the system. Fabricating lies, etc., to avoid punishment for their own infractions, obtain extra privileges, and to remove other inmates they don't like. As men are regularly removed from the general population, and found guilty of write ups based solely on the word of an unknown informant. Leading to many of these men doing more time in prison, due to loss of good time credits, loss of jobs, and parole denials. And as can be expected, it creates a lot of conflicts, including assaults, rapes, and even murder. Warden McDaniel knows this, yet allows it to continue. The horrors revealed in the declarations of state employees Barbara Walker and Lorraine Memory (p. 4) regarding the interference of warden McDaniel, in the medical care of ESP inmates, is especially telling. Warden McDaniel has likewise encouraged a policy that rewards depravity and prejudice among his staff. As corrections officers are allowed to harass and even brutalize us with impunity, our complaints regularly dismissed or denied outright. The few policies in place to protect what rights we do have, ignored. I myself have suffered many attacks, both physical and psychological, to this day, for speaking out on behalf of our rights, and seeking to expose the cruelties I've witnessed. The murder of a mentally ill man in 1999, known only as Edmonds. At the hands of both corrections officers and medical staff. A young man in 2006 crying out for help as he revealed thoughts of suicide. Only to be taunted by corrections officers as he was moved to the infirmary, and somehow ended up dead the next day while on suicide watch. Even our efforts to educate and keep ourselves sane under these conditions are criminalized. Simply sharing a book or a bowl of soup is illegal here. In fact any c/o with racist views or religious prejudice can take what ever books or literature they want from us. Under the guise of gang activities. Just recently literature on the Civil Rights Movement, Barack Obama, and pro people politics. Authors such as Alex Haly and Howard Zinn were held up by warden McDaniel himself as gang materials, and disposed of.

Esteemed board members, we realize there is an underbelly to this business. And thus' an appreciation among some, for warden McDaniel's willingness to sacrifice our civil rights, and even our lives, to cut costs. (p. 5) But we wonder at what cost. Has the board calculated the numerous monies it has, and will continue to cost, the state in legal fees, settlements, damages, etc. The cost to "your" moral authority and standing in the community. As families are destroyed with the loss of loved ones, who have died needlessly due to lack of access to proper medical care. Due to mental illness and suicides that could have been prevented. Men who took their own lives rather than endure these conditions. The cost of young men dehumanized and humiliated to the point there is only hate and frustration in their hearts. Then expected to re-enter society well-adjusted and able to function as productive citizens.

I submit to this board that many of us here want to change our lives. But will never be allowed to under the wardship of E.K. McDaniel. Ely State Prison needs a new administration. One that will respect our rights as human beings, and citizens of this country. Rather than treat us as enemy combatants, criminalizing even our efforts to educate and improve ourselves as men.

In closing, I'd like the board to imagine for a moment, there is a great ship on the Pacific. The name of this ship is the Promise and Hope of America. A great ship indeed. But every so often during troubled waters, people fall from the ship and are swept out to sea. Now you

have a chance to throw these people a life jacket. Or you can stand there apathetic and do nothing... The fact is, ESP is not a Supermax prison. The majority of inmates here do not fall to the standard that calls for them to be locked down this way indefinitely. And as (p. 6) the majority of these men will return to society, it is our assertion here that to allow business to continue as usual, would be a great disservice to the public interest.

We ask ESP be run as it was built to be run. An open yard with regular access to the gym, school building, chapel, and law library. For all general population inmates. With inmates in the segregation units receiving 8-12 man yard. So everyone can get the necessary fresh air, sunshine, and exercise. To promote good mental and physical health.

We ask that mentally ill and protective custody inmates be sent to a facility better equipped to deal with their special needs. Or in the least they be housed in a separate unit to keep the peace and order within the prison.

We ask that two full-time medical doctors be employed to ensure all 1000 plus inmates will have access to competent, quality, and professional medical care.

We ask that corrections officers undergo better training, that includes a communications course and encourages humane and respectful treatment of the convicts.

And we ask that all rules, policies, etc, already in place, to ensure the fair and professional treatment of convicts be strictly enforced. Including the discipline of staff misconduct, abuse of authority, etc.

Marritte Funches
#37050
P.O. Box 1989
Ely, NV 89301

(received via email and typed on April 11th 2009 by a friend)